

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-46 are listed in this application, of which claims 21, 35, and 41, are independent, and claims 35-40 are withdrawn. By way of this Amendment, claims 21-34 are amended, and claims 41-46 are presented as new. Applicant thanks Examiner Schaetzle for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during a telephone conversation on December 9, 2010.

Claims 21-34 as amended merely change the wording of the preamble to recite an "electrode carrier guide" recited in the body of independent claim 21 instead of "apparatus." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-34 be in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

By way of this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits new claims 41-46. Independent claim 41 recites subject matter related to the creation of an electrode carrier guide, containing a similar recitation to independent claim 21. As independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance, independent claim 41 is also in condition for allowance, at least based upon the recited limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 41 is in condition for allowance.

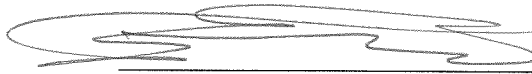
Dependent claims 42-46 depend on independent claim 41 and are therefore allowable at least based upon these limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 42-46 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner may have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 30-868 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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